

Sellers of fire fighting equipment and ambulances are no longer exempt from Virginia Motor Vehicle Dealer licensing requirements.

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During the 2004 session of the Virginia General Assembly, HB 453 was passed that repealed a provision in § 46.2-1500 exempting persons who sell and distribute fire-fighting equipment, ambulances, and funeral vehicles from having to be licensed as motor vehicle dealers. Effective January 1, 2005, all dealers and manufacturers of emergency vehicles must now be licensed by the Motor Vehicle Dealers Board and/or Department of Motor Vehicles to sell fire trucks, ambulances, first response vehicles, and other specialty emergency vehicles in Virginia.

Prior to purchasing an emergency vehicle from a salesperson in Virginia, all EMS, Rescue and Fire Departments are urged to request to see a copy of their Virginia dealer or manufacturer's license.

Sellers of fire engines and ambulances have been advised to consult with their attorney and the appropriate licensing agency (i.e. the Motor Vehicle Dealer Board for dealers and DMV for manufacturers) to determine which requirements are applicable to their situation.

In addition, it is no longer permitted for any emergency vehicle manufacturer to have outside salespersons that work for the manufacturer and sell vehicles in VA without an established dealership. The ambulance manufacturer must have a franchise agreement with a company to serve as their authorized dealer. The franchise dealer must have a place of business in VA and hold a valid license issued by the Motor Vehicle Dealers Board to sell emergency vehicles.

If you have questions related to these new licensing requirements or your responsibility as an award recipient to purchase an ambulance using Rescue Squad Assistance Funds (RSAFs) please contact the Office of EMS at 1-800-523-6019 (toll free in VA).